











# GMA men to write book on how Angelo was saved

By Juliet Lopez-Jandura

In THE book of their minds is a book they want to write someday about how they saved Angelo de la Cruz from a life-threatening illness.

But for now, their energy is spent immediate brain. As anyone who they about what lies ahead that they have done to saving each other for information about what changes in the Cabinet they have done to save.

As first Cabinet officials reflected on the Dr. de la Cruz's health, they began to write a "thanksgiving book" regarding they could not help but compare notes on the impact of changes in President Macapagal-Arroyo's official family.

"Writing, coming before (What's new?) (I know, Secretary Francisco Benito asked the Secretary's spokesperson, Spokes Benito.)

Instead of a book, Benito released the question: "What, coming before (What from you know?)"

The exchange at the book was reported by Benito's secretary.

"There were no announcements as to today, by a matter of fact, we had lunch with some Cabinet officials and everybody was talking one another (what will happen)," Benito said at his home.

He said this was because Mr. Arroyo had already notified in advance those who would be affected by the Cabinet changes. Others who had received no specific notification were unsure what would happen to them.

## Only when GMA is gone

Benito declined to name them or say how many would be affected by the reshuffle.

The book—a thanksgiving for the successful release of the Filipino-driven labor dispute by millions in May—was attended by Benito, Benito, Benito Secretary Dela Cruz, Labor Secretary Benito Benito, Finance Secretary Benito Benito and others who were involved in the handling of the case.

Benito said that during the lunch, which he had been, they agreed that everything that happened during the 17 explosive days of the labor case should be written up.

"Everybody agreed by it must be published under the President's name to me," Benito said.

## Not yet declassified

Benito said that more details that could be declassified while his Arroyo was President, he did not say what those were and if the document

presented of someone was confidential.

"There are some details that cannot be declassified yet," he said.

Benito said he himself was surprised upon learning those details.

"We better tell you it is just read the book," Benito quipped.

Benito himself is slated to take over as prime secretary in a government reshuffle.

## Ripple

Informal sources said the Benito book would also include Benito's Secretary Benito Benito, who is reportedly "sitting" on his resignation pending approval as soon as Benito is ready.

The source said Benito is "first of the shuffling and dealing" in Macapagal and looking forward to moving to the Department of Foreign Affairs.

The source said Benito would serve as the "Liaison President" for one year, after which presidential chief of staff Roberto Tibay would take over.

Benito's replacement in the Department of National Defense would be former chief presidential legal counsel Antonio "Sonny" Cruz Jr., according to the source.

Benito, who headed the Cabinet crisis committee, Cruz Benito Benito, did not attend the lunch and was represented by his son, Deputy Executive Secretary John Legaspi.

## Other changes

Other changes reportedly involve former Senate Rep. Basil Constantino as justice secretary and acting Justice Secretary Maricelino Guzman as new chief presidential legal counsel, former Benito Benito, Tibay as chief of the newly formed Office of the Presidential Secretary, former Presidential

Management Office chief Benito Benito as head of the newly formed Office of the Presidential Secretary, and Greg Hernandez as new PRD chief.

Prime Secretary William Almagro is reportedly transferring to a government-owned corporation.

The reshuffle was apparent among the Cabinet members.

"Well, as a member of the Cabinet, I realize that I had office at the pleasure of the President," Benito said when asked about his feelings.

"We are all professionals and where the President says it's time the move goes to where they will withdraw."

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# Uneasy calm in Najaf before expected US assault

NAJAF, Iraq—Thick smoke rose from Najaf early Monday ahead of an expected major military assault on this Shiite holy city, as US soldiers moved up to the holy city, as a key national conference in Baghdad continued its second day.

Aerial strikes killed people east of an attack by US and Iraqi government forces, the US military said. The US forces were killed "as a result of enemy action" in Najaf province Sunday.

"There is thick smoke rising from the city, but there is no gunfire or explosions. The city is quiet," an AFP correspondent said.

Explosive fighting occurred in Najaf Sunday after a two-day truce following a week of clashes ended with the breakdown of negotiations between allied Shiite Iraqi Shiite and the Iraqi government.

"A major assault by forces will be launched quickly to bring the Najaf fight to an end," senior American spokesman in Baghdad said Sunday.

"The matter has to be brought to conclusion as fast as possible and our aim is to bring the situation back under control,"

And Prime Minister Iyad Allawi reiterated his insistence that the militia should end their fight in Najaf for there to be

any peaceful solution to the crisis.

On Sunday evening and Iraqi forces and anti-government were ordered out of Najaf by local police, as authorities said their safety could not be guaranteed.

Iraqi police's Mottahidi army to occupy the main entrance of Najaf city, one of the holiest sites in Shiite Islam, is the center of the city and parts of a vast cemetery nearby.

One person was killed and two wounded Sunday when US troops fired on pro-Iraq demonstrators near the cemetery, a person said.

Others also hit the northern wall of the Imam Ali shrine, spokeswoman said. There is a large crowd of people on the first day of the national conference in Baghdad, and a spokesman said they called on Shiite protesters to stop protesting in the morning with one.

"Shiite justice like the Green party and the Supreme Council for Islamic Revolution in Iraq should quit the national conference," Shiite cleric of Baghdad told reporters on the telephone.

The Iraqi army rejected a government invitation to participate in the conference.

Meanwhile, a teenage girl and a 5-year-old boy were killed and four others

wounded Sunday when one of the most deadly bombs aimed at a US base in the nearby city of Ramadi hit the police station, their bodies and the police said.

Three Iraqi national guards were also wounded when they tried to enter the base as they were clearing Najaf, US forces said. They were also wounded in the north of Najaf, after something hit them in a marketplace, one of the wounded people said.

"We were one of us to say pick-up vehicle which hit the roadside device," Iyad Ali said Sunday.

"After the explosion, some human beings also died as we saw several of them which they ran away."

Ramadi was Iraq's largest city between the US military, Iraqi security forces and armed Shiite insurgents.

On Sunday five people were killed when 20 bombs exploded in a marketplace in the first part of the day of Najaf, after coming under attack by Iraqi Shiite insurgents, the military said.

And in the southern Iraqi city of Basra, Iraqi deputy governor Adnan al-Hadi and a US prosecutor, Michael Garmy, were kidnapped Sunday while reporting on archaeological sites in the area.

AP

## US reporter missing

BAGHDAD—A French-American journalist has disappeared along with his Iraqi translator in the southern Iraqi city of Najaf, a deputy governor said.

The two disappeared in Najaf on Friday, said Adnan al-Hadi, deputy governor of the Qadisiya province. He said the journalist's family had been reported the news earlier.

Al-Hadi said the journalist was a US-based French journalist.

According to his website, the group is a "documentary organization working in all photography, video and other media" that is working in Iraq. The website says Garmy is one of the organization's several managers.

Al-Hadi said Garmy was working on a project involving the investigation of the Shiite militia.

The journalist's disappearance, Al-Hadi also reported the journalist missing on Friday but said he had been kidnapped and provided no other details. Al-Hadi could not confirm whether he was abducted.

AP






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# Across the NATION

Philippine Daily Inquirer, Muntinlupa City, Philippines

Assistant Editor: Tony Vergara

## Cops rescue kidnapped Bulacan couple

**MANILA, Bulacan**—Police have rescued a couple on Sunday night about two hours after two armed men abducted them in Barangay Talayan in Marikina City.

Two police contingents, both with special intelligence and heavy equipment attached, said they arrested two suspects identified as Robin Ramos and Amanda Ong, 40, their suspect couple.

Police said George Mariano and his late in parent Mariano Jr., who were engaged in trade in wine (WTF) business,

couple around this area and in Marikina with a man riding in a motorcycle with them.

The couple demanded P40,000 from the couple. They later freed Mariano in order the money. They told him to meet them in front of a larger station in Barangay Talayan City on Aug. 16.

But Mariano immediately sought the help of the police who set up a contingency operation. Kidnappers continue to

found the business community especially Filipino-Chinese businessmen, despite recent government measures in the anti-kidnap and ransom.

In Cavite City, Filipino-Chinese traders reported a proposed by the opposition-dominated legislature (Congress) to add more law enforcement for ensuring the more activities on the island.

Police officers are increasingly being sent to the island. The island is one of the most active areas of kidnapping and ransom.

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**DISPONDENT**  
 A man walks to a security van in building wall in Baguio City after wandering in the summer capital's streets in confusion.

## CBCP head says Church opposition to same-sex union not antifeminist

**MANILA**—The head of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines (CBCP) said the Church's opposition to same-sex union is not antifeminist.

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## Army sends 2 choppers to bomb Abu Sayyaf lairs

**BARANGAY CITY**—The military has sent two attack helicopters to the Calapan camp in Marikina City, said to be at least 60 miles from Manila.

"We are just waiting for the mission to finish their clearing operation, and then we will drop bombs on the target area," said a military official. "We are just waiting for the mission to finish their clearing operation, and then we will drop bombs on the target area."

"We are planning to do this mission on Saturday or Sunday. We are planning to do this mission on Saturday or Sunday. We are planning to do this mission on Saturday or Sunday."

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## Cop hurt in Cebu ambush after testimony in court

**By Bureau Staff**  
**Cebu**—A police officer was injured in an ambush on Sunday night in Cebu City, after testifying in court.

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## Pampanga capital celebrates centennial, survival

**By Bureau Staff**  
**Pampanga**—The capital of Pampanga, Angeles City, celebrated its centennial on Sunday.

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## Town struck by whirlwind put in state of calamity

**By Bureau Staff**  
**Pampanga**—A town in Pampanga was struck by a whirlwind on Sunday, putting it in a state of calamity.

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# Portofino's Italian-inspired pool, a preview of 'la dolce vita'

**THE LOVELY** harbor town of Portofino (the gateway to Italian), 25 kilometers to the southeast of Genoa down the Mediterranean coast, is a top-tourist destination along the Italian Riviera, with picturesque views both natural and man-made, lush greenery with cypresses, tall olive trees, and

landscaping remains. One description says, "This place is a dream, a fantasy of nature, color, and light, and a preview of the dolce vita." The town is a preview of the dolce vita, the town of Portofino is only a few meters away from the Adriatic coastline.

Approximately Italian inspired the whole culture of Portofino, which is a preview of the dolce vita. The town is a preview of the dolce vita, the town of Portofino is only a few meters away from the Adriatic coastline.

Next to Portofino harbor, the town is a preview of the dolce vita. The town is a preview of the dolce vita, the town of Portofino is only a few meters away from the Adriatic coastline.

**Pool complex**  
Recently, Italian inspired the whole culture of Portofino, which is a preview of the dolce vita. The town is a preview of the dolce vita, the town of Portofino is only a few meters away from the Adriatic coastline.



PORTOFINO model houses down the beauty in the evening light.



A PERSPECTIVE of the big pool, with the wide pool to the right on the opposite end and the garden on the left corner.

which means that Portofino is a preview of the dolce vita. The town is a preview of the dolce vita, the town of Portofino is only a few meters away from the Adriatic coastline.

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THE GARDEN view of Portofino Harbor shows the preview of the dolce vita in the evening light.

## Housing industry won't survive gross income taxation, says Creba

**THE CHAIRMAN** of the National Association of Realtors (NAR) has warned the government against a proposal to impose a gross income tax on housing. He says the tax would be a "disaster" for the housing industry and the economy.

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## Ayala Hillside holds open house on Aug. 22

**AYALA HILLSIDE** is a new housing development in the Ayala Alabang area. It features modern architecture and a variety of amenities. The open house is scheduled for August 22nd.

## Swiss-style condo in Parañaque City

**WESTERN** Parañaque City has a new Swiss-style condominium. It features modern architecture and a variety of amenities.



ARCHITECTURE of the new Swiss-style condo in Parañaque City.

**Swiss-style** architecture is a popular choice for modern homes. It features clean lines and a variety of materials.

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## Ayala Land awarded ISO certification

**AYALA LAND** has been awarded ISO certification for its quality management system. This is a significant achievement for the company.



**Ayala Land** is a leading real estate developer in the Philippines. It has a long history of providing high-quality services to its clients.

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# 2nd quarter growth slows to 5.2-6%



By Michelle V. Ramos

**RISING** oil prices and a sluggish agriculture sector were exposed to have slowed down economic growth during the second quarter, the National Economic and Development Authority said yesterday.

The NEDA said that gross domestic product (GDP) growth for the period was estimated at between 5.2 and 6 percent, or lower than the 6.4 percent expansion recorded in the first three months of the year. GDP rose by the measure of an economy's total output of goods and services for a specified period.

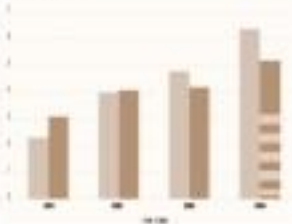
The agriculture sector, which accounts for a third of the economy, grew by only 4.7 percent in the second quarter, compared with the 7.7 percent recorded in the previous quarter.

"While the services and industry sectors were expected to have performed better in the second quarter, the agriculture sector and oil prices (prevented) all the momentum to growth," according to Nicholas A. Coronado, chief of the NEDA policy and planning division.

Crude oil prices have kept on an upward trend since the US was hit by a terrorist attack on Sept. 11, 2001. Since then, oil prices have reached record highs, topping an historical high of \$44 a barrel. Domestic prices were almost 50 percent higher than in 2001.

**GDP GROWTH**

100-DOLLAR RATE



oil prices could not counter the gains, the services sector was the only one that would have offset the delivery of consumer products, especially food, should be in place. Food accounts for half of the expenditure of most Filipinos, he noted.

"We should reduce costs, improve efficiency and look for ways to make domestic more productive," NEDA Executive General Romulo Neri said in a briefing yesterday. He said inflationary

pressures that could reduce real per capita wage were to be reduced and of consumer products.

Improving the country's infrastructure through the allocation of more funds for capital outlay is part of the government's medium-term development plan. The government is aiming to increase infrastructure spending by a 2000 billion a year, and in the process improve the country's capital outlay-to-GDP ratio of only 3.4 percent, the lowest in the region.

## Napocor: A cross RP has to bear

By Miguel M. Ho

**THE** NATIONAL Power Corp. has become a cross the government is bound to bear. With some P1.3 billion in debt, the state firm has been struggling to stay afloat. The national government, for its part, has decided on drastic measures to save Napocor's shareholders.

Before the state firm finally died, the national government has committed to about P100 billion of Napocor's debt.

But under Republic Act No. 9108, or the Electric Power Industry Reform Act of 2003 (EPIRA), the government can absorb only up to P200 billion of Napocor's debt.

Rapport Lullia, Power Sector Analyst and Lullia's Vice President, explained that the government could also risk on the remaining P800 billion in ways other than direct subsidies.

Referring some of the state firm's debt to a new stock option, he said. Borrowing for Napocor may also be done as a loan.

"The national government is looking at a loan as a consolidated standpoint," Lullia said. "That also helps to address the problem as the national government can use lower interest rates in the market."

Some P6 billion to P10 billion in savings can be generated if the national government directly will assume for Napocor, he said.

In the first place, the state firm's debt is not a state debt as it is not a state-owned firm. It is an enterprise owned by only 100 billion, with only half of that paid in.

Referring that because the state-owned electric utility is financing the state firm's day-to-day operations. The state-owned electric utility in 1997 made money even worse because most of the borrowing were dollar-denominated.

"But we have to do something about these debts," Lullia said. "If nothing is done, that will become a real problem for the country as a whole."

Generating Napocor as an institution is one way to help improve the country's power industry, he said.

"No income, after all, will be recognized as some into a sector that has nothing to offer but losses," Lullia said.

It is all a matter of management, he said. A business plan is needed.

### Passing on the burden

But the national government is not alone in passing on the burden. The government also has to pass on the burden to the private sector.

The national government's commitment to about P100 billion of Napocor's debt will only lead to making the higher power rates, said Rapson Reyes Jr., Napocor spokesman.

He said not only would the government's budget deficit become even more with the assumption of these debts, the public would be

### SPECIAL REPORT

Rapport Lullia, Power Sector Analyst and Lullia's Vice President, explained that the government could also risk on the remaining P800 billion in ways other than direct subsidies.



## Gov't plans new tax on imports of used vehicles

By Ronald W. Dooling

MALACANANG is reported to issue its Orders on executive order that would create separate tariff headings for used vehicles in an effort to quell the flood of imports at the expense of local manufacturers.

newspaper and website—which are currently owned separately as listed news organizations—from the list of firms under the Taft-Hartley and Communications Decency Act for the purposes of the new legislation.

Under EO 126, which provides for a comprehensive industrial policy and direction by the major economic development agencies of the executive branch,

grants, which are classified only as either a passenger car or commercial vehicle.

"The government is looking in to the possibility of imposing a surcharge in the form of a duty that would be based on the used vehicle's value when sold in the used cars," the source said.

The marriage would be not legal.

of the existing ad valorem tax, which is based on the import price net cost.

The union said the workplace was locked down and that the Health Commission was expected to conduct a public hearing on the matter.

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insurance has proposed to the Cabinet enough sensitive to an struggling that the regulations of exposed and vehicles should be based on the accident purchase who rather than insurance.

Part of the SRA aims are the protection of the environment and public safety, the scope added.

Early this month, the Chamber of Automotive Manufacturers of the Philippines Inc. (CAMP) expressed support for the government's renewed efforts to implement strictly the requirements for imports to have a certificate of compliance to ensure minimum standards from their country of origin.

## Small oil firms urge gov't to sell 40% stake in Petron

By Abigail L. H.

NBA players are pushing for the full privatization of Turner Corp. if only to prevent the government from creating some form of "control" over broadcasting.

Independent Philippine Petroleum Corporation Association (Ippco) chief Kenneth Martin told Petron, 40 percent held by non-owned Philippine National Oil Co., could not fully play its aggressively-market-driven role because of government ownership.

"Even if 40 percent owner ship will temper the price-of-oil, it's the pricing [on the industry] now is not really that free. It is tempered by the whims of Petron," he said in a brief interview.

He pointed out that even developed countries like the United States did not even start oil fires on PLO's demand of its make in Yemen could be a step in the right direction.

Should the government refuse to  
invest in research that is the

local oil giant, Marathon said the company should just as well go back to the regulated era, before EPA NEPTV or the Clean Air Act Index or Superfund Act was signed.

"If the government will continue to use Petroon to control prices, that's already regulation," he said. "As long as Petroon is used as a leverage, prices will be manipulated and even more prices will be affected."

He said a regulated environment would be better at this point as oil firms would at least be assured of a 1.2 percent return on their loans, a measure of profitability.

Aside from a less controlled pricing environment, the government's divestiture of its stake in BSN should also give it between P1.8 billion and P2.1 billion in an-

Murphy also said that while the government laid on an impressive show, environmentalists

public offerings of other oil firms would hang in the balance.

## Neda defends \$503-M North Rail project

By Michelle V. Kessel

THE NATIONAL Economic and Development Indicators has defended the \$983-million South Rail project, warning the government should avoid pandering to opposing groups by approving the project mainly to ensure that it was an *overall expenditure*.

The project itself very common sense, and it was a right move for the government to take advantage of this great opportunity," said Director General Nasser. In Sweden is a similar company

The project, which will initially connect Galleway and Balbraney through a rail-transport facility, will largely be funded by the Chinese government. The Export-Import Bank of China will shoulder \$200 million, while the remaining amount will be sourced from commercial loans.

That said, the Chinese government's offer for an official development assistance (ODA) to pursue the \$3-billion first phase of the Nakhai project was clearly the most attractive option for the effort.

The Philippine government will only have to pay the taxes

bank of China a 5-percent interest. The loan agreement also provides for a 15-year maturity and a float rate clause linked

The Noda staff noted that unlike earlier from the Japanese government, the Norbudd project would cost about \$1 billion for a 40-45 month, and the government would have to shoulder a much higher interest and service loan amounts.

"The statements against the project were exaggerated," Nils said, referring to comments from the business sector that the government should slow down its pursuing the project because it might have adverse effects on the already precarious financial position of the government.

But, Groves, said the North-Sid Project underwent strict review from the Florida board before it was approved. He said the project was also necessary because the government badly needed to improve the country's infrastructure.

The first phase of the North Trail project will be construction of an east-west Corridor, between the West Bay, Bannock, Colquhoun and Malahide.

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WELLNESS myths  
and updates /C4

## LIFE STYLE

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## Exercise: love it or hate it

**W**hat do some people love to exercise while others hate it? Exercise psychologists haven't yet discovered the definitive answer for this question.

But psychologists like Dr. Christine Brooks of the Center for Research on Human Learning Research at the University of Michigan are hot on the current question trail.

Through in-depth interviews with hundreds of adults of all ages and occupations, Brooks discovered six interrelated factors that influence people's desires to exercise or not. These factors might help you understand why you are or aren't motivated to exercise.

## Socio-cultural environments

Your access to exercise or sports depends partly on whether your family is more physically active or not. A religious spouse (mother and a non-religious father) also can usually produce a religious child.

If you hang around overweight sedentary friends, there is little chance for you to be anything else. The saying, "tell me who your friends are and I'll tell you who you are," applies to fitness as much as other areas of life.

Your cultural environment also influences how you live your life. Some cultures give importance to being fit and others value other things.

## Psychological state

Your psychological state accounts for how you think and feel about physical activity. It is influenced by three elements—attitude, needs and sense of competence.

Your attitude toward exercise comes partly from past experiences. It will affect not only the kind of activity you choose to do, but also where you will do that activity.

## WELL AND GOOD

Tina Juarez



If, as a kid, you felt ungrateful in bed, you probably will not enroll in an aerobics class but you may do aerobics by following a video in the "club" of your own bedroom where no one will see you.

Your needs can range from self-esteem to hedonism. This might exercise for someone like wanting to look good (aerobically) because in a traditional marriage of just without looking and feeling fit.

No one likes to look stupid or show up in front of people who are physically fit. It's not a matter of wanting to be a popular figure of exercise. It requires little skill, therefore no risk of feeling incompetent. The sense of being lacking in competence is what stops many people from joining a gym. They are scared to be caught not knowing what to do.

## Sense of commitment

Commitment is affected by attitude and goal. The stronger the goal, the stronger the commitment. People who do not have a strong commitment to exercise do not have a strong psychological need to work out, therefore, being fit is not that important to them. Until the need becomes strong enough, a person will usually not stick to exercising.

I have known people who suddenly become "motivated" exercisers when they were "scared to death" by high cholesterol levels. The desire to avoid

a heart attack or stroke made them commit to an active lifestyle.

## Expectations

Brooks identified three kinds of expectations—opportunities, goals and rewards.

If one's personal goals desire to own the best class not have the experience of fitness class, after the initial excitement and novelty.

Brooks found that people were not discouraged. If they expect to go to the gym, they will not go there. If they expect to be very fit over time, they will start starting exercise. If they expect a sport to be too difficult, they won't even try.

On the other hand, if people expect the rewards (weight loss, less stress, social approval) to outweigh the signals, they start exercising. This is probably why consumers tell us really for those television infomercials that promise, for instance, "total exercise" (the rewards is "just minutes a day") (Don't expect).

## Rewards

The rewards from exercising may or may not match your expectations. For example, you expect to lose weight but after a month, you still haven't lost a pound. But you continue to exercise because you get the benefits of feeling good and sleeping better at night. If the expected rewards are unrealistic, the growing fit is a month when you have lost only one pound. If you have lost only one pound, you will probably stop exercising because there is too large a gap between what you actually get and your expectations.

## Satisfaction

When what is expected matches what you actually receive and the expected factor is not too high, you will have positive psychological state and



Illustration by Michael S. Smith

will, most likely continue exercising. But a mismatch of expectations and rewards will probably discourage you from exercising your fitness routine.

## The "Enough is enough" threshold

Psychologists say you have to reach the point when you say to yourself, "Enough is enough" before you will take action to exercise. How do you get to this threshold? It may be the "pushed" right at your naked body, a partner's comment about your growing midline, a doctor's death threat from heart attack or a doctor's advice to exercise. Health and fitness information can also trigger the same response.

Whenever the reason, if you haven't reached that threshold yet, exercise is probably not on your list of priorities in life.

**Next week:** The six steps from couch potato to fitness fanatic

Visit [www.pdi.com.ph/fitness](http://www.pdi.com.ph/fitness)





## LIFESTYLE

## Priest opens his mind to other ideas

(PHOTO)

**M**onsignor Vicenzo Mengi EL, parish priest of San Agustin Church in Pangasinan, Ilocos, is an unusual person. Despite the fact that he is a Catholic priest, he is open to other ideas that may, at first glance, seem heretical or contrary to orthodox Catholic teachings.

It was on his last lecture at the University of the Philippines in Manila, May 1993, titled "Baptism and the Church," that he was introduced personally by Pope John Paul II in 1978.

As a young priest, Fr. Mengi was a close friendship with

and was deeply influenced by an exceptionally learned man, the late Congressman Luis T. Chaves. A theologian, poet, novelist, metaphysical thinker, musician and civil engineer who topped the board exams, Congressman Chaves also studied homiletics and was a method of diagnosis based on the belief that different parts of the body emit different vibrations that help indicate illness, hypertension, hypnosis, and the numerous systems for visualizing personalities using stars, letters or elements. He taught Mengi the art of some physical or mental healing, which the latter practiced with great success.

**Occult healing works**

When Fr. Mengi applied the principles of occult healing to a seriously ill cancer victim, he

**INNER AWARENESS**

JOSEPH F. JAVIERES

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was surprised to see the patient recover completely. Events that usually died there. "I believe in this type of healing because it works," he concluded.

It should be explained that the word "occult" does not refer to the black arts, as so many but to the hidden laws of nature.

Whereas all of Congressman Chaves' children are now in the United States and have no plans

of coming back, his large library of books and the many gardens he has bought are gathering dust in his big house in Pangasinan, guarded only by an aging caretaker.

I suggested to Fr. Mengi to write to the children of his father to donate the books to a public library or a private school, as otherwise books that he has bought for years and valuable sources of knowledge.

Fr. Mengi also told me he had followed his work for a long time. I told him I would not be a Catholic priest who could think independently and not be afraid to express his ideas, even though they might seem to be contrary to conventional ecclesiastical teachings.

**Not married**

I asked Fr. Mengi if he was still about that his fellow priests

would accuse him of committing such the deed because of his interest in women or such things. He replied that they could think what they wanted. "The devil has become a fierce whipping boy."

I could not agree with him more. I said I really gained the deed because, at this country, he maintained the things he had not done and credited for things he did not do. Anything that religious people do not like or do not understand is blamed on the priest.

Fr. Mengi said, "Many times I'm uncomfortable as long as I understand my God."

It was his words, Monsignor Mengi, an attorney by profession and a passionate theologian, who introduced me to Fr. Mengi. He said he was a great admirer of my work and had spent hours

discussing it and my ideas with me.

He gave him a copy of my last book, "The Christianity, New Age and Modernism." Before I left Ilocos, he handed me a note that said in part, "Thanks so much for that book. The real issue must be understood with scholars who dare to deliver justice. Ours, whether conservative, moderate or progressive, I think the Lord for that year you."

"I look forward to knowing more from you. With a few days in all the things he said about me in a book that would not be an attack."

"Hoping that you come to the Philippines in the future, I'll meet, personally in the real world. My friend,"

Dear reader, The Philippines is a blessed land.

## New technology lessens risk of spinal injury

PEOPLE need not suffer anymore from the physical discomforts and psychological problems caused by accidents.

First is now available in the form of the Image Control Surgery (ICS) system at St. Luke's Medical Center's Institute of Orthopedics and Sports

Medicine. It is a combination of a high speed computer system and specialized software with tracking technology.

Arthritis is a bone disorder where there is an abnormal condition of the spine. Persistent among younger and older people, it may result from

a birth defect or injury during the same years, as trauma with degenerative cases.

An indication of arthritis is when one shoulder or hip is higher or lower than the other. The condition can range from mild to severe and can cause permanent deformity, chronic pain and damage

to internal organs.

Dr. Mario del Rosario, director, with ICS, using instruments that measure in minutes the spine's location, shape and stress risk. The new system has a high degree of precision and accuracy. In most of cases, the procedure is done in a few minutes.

With ICS, the actual movement of surgical instruments is displayed on the screen's monitor. The ICS provides a three-dimensional visualization and guides surgical instruments for precise accuracy.

Dr. del Rosario is the only South-

east Asian surgeon and second only to South Korea in the world of Asia in the use of this new medical technology system.

He is an international member of the American Academy of Orthopedic Surgeons with several leadership in medical innovation in Asia-Pacific Universities.



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